(c) the details of the coverage available so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the license agreement for provision of Internet Service, last mile linkages within local area are freely permitted to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) by radio communication subject to clearance from Wireless Planning & Co-ordination (WPC) Wing of Department of Telecommunications to avoid frequency interference. A number of ISPs, including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limtied (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), are already providing Internet service to their subscribers using various technologies including wireless medium. In order to promote Internet and Broadband services using wireless, use of low power equipment has been delicensed by the Government in the frequency band 2.4 to 2.4835 GHz for indoor and outdoor applications with specified technical parameters. Also, indoor use of low power equipment has been delicensed in the frequency bands 5.150 to 5.350 GHz and 5.725 to 5.875 GHz with specified technical parameters.

(c) Under the license agreement for provision of Internet service, no target has been specified for the licensees for coverage of Internet service including wireless Internet. It depends upon the business decision of the licensee.

Charges of Limited Mobile Phones

164. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued a notice under which Fixed Wireless Phones (FWPs) which were treated as Fixed Phones have been reclassified as Limited Mobile/WLL (M) phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that after the issue of this notice, persons calling limited mobile/WLL (M) phones from BSNL lines have to pay almost triple the charges; and

(d) if so, how many complaints have been received in this regard and the steps being taken to remove this anomaly in the interest of BSNL subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In order to ensure that march of technology is not misused or abused by subscribers or service providers, it was clarified that the terminal used for fixed wireless services should be strictly confined to the premises of the subscriber where the telephone connection is registered and wherever such restriction cannot be imposed, it is to be treated as Limited Mobile feature for all purposes which *inter-alia* includes Numbering Plan, Interconnection Usage Charges etc.

(c) and (d) Two representations were received in this regard. BSNL has informed that the tariff, for the calls terminated in self network and for calls terminated in the network of other service providers, is under forbearance as per directives/Telecom Tariff Orders of TRAI. Further, it has been reported that other operators are also offering different tariffs for own network and the network of other service providers for same type of services and to o*fer differential tariff to intra-network calls and inter-network calls is within the ambit of present regulatory directives.

Subsidized telephone rates

165. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile subscriber base is growing by roughly 5-8 per cent every month as compared to subscriber base of BSNL.

(b) whether it is also a fact that inspite of stagnant subscriber base of BSNL, Government have not considered the interest of 60 million mobile subscribers by subsidizing telephony cost; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard in the interest of 60 million mobile subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The